

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BEXP, ETRD, EG
SUBJECT: ARAB COMMON MARKET

REF: USDOC 11349

1. ACCORDING OFFICIALS OF ARAB ECONOMIC UNITY COUNCIL (AEUC), YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC IS NOT RPT. NOT A MEMBER OF THE ARAB COMMON MARKET (ACM). AT PRESENT, FULL MEMBERS OF ACM ARE EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA, IRAQ, AND LIBYA (WHICH JOINED IN 1977). AEUC SOURCES TELL US THAT SUDAN AND PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF YEMEN (PDRY) AGREED IN PRINCIPLE AT RECENT AEUC MEETING IN BAGHDAD TO JOIN ACM UNDER ARRANGEMENT WHICH WOULD (A) PROVIDE FOR 50 PERCENT INITIAL REDUCTION IN DUTIES ON IMPORTS FROM MEMBER STATES, WITH ADDITIONAL 10 PERCENT IN SUCCEEDING YEARS, AND (B) PERMIT CERTAIN GOODS TO BE EXEMPTED FROM TARIFF ELIMINATION SCHEDULE. DISCUSSIONS ARE CURRENTLY UNDERWAY TO SPECIFY PRODUCTS TO BE EXEMPTED, WITH PDRY AND SUDAN SLATED BECOME FULL MEMBERS OF ACM AFTER THIS QUESTION RESOLVED.

2. SOMEWHAT FURTHER AWAY FROM FULL MEMBERSHIP, ACCORDING AEUC OFFICIALS, IS A GROUP OF COUNTRIES WHICH INCLUDES YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC, MAURITANIA, AND SOMALIA. THESE COUNTRIES HAVE EXPRESSED INTEREST IN JOINING ACM, BUT
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WISH TO START AT LOWER LEVEL OF INITIAL TARIFF REDUCTION ON IMPORTS THAN SUDAN AND PDRY HAVE AGREED TO AND WISH TO HAVE LARGER LIST OF EXEMPTIONS.

3. TWO OTHER AEUC MEMBERS, KUWAIT AND UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, HAVE HAD SOME DISCUSSION ABOUT JOINING ACM, BUT APPEAR, AEUC SOURCES INDICATE, TO BE SOME DISTANCE AWAY

FROM ACTUALLY TAKING THIS STEP. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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